

Deputy

Affairs File

VanHorn offers bribe:

Crime + Criminals (WV) *Ref. (WV)* Community

By Patrick J. Barnes **AUG 1 1984**
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter
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A Vigo County sheriff's deputy and his wife claim a city arson investigator has offered to pay them \$10,000 to withdraw a complaint they have filed against him, The Tribune-Star learned Tuesday.

The alleged payoff occurred two weeks before a federal grand jury is to be impaneled in Indianapolis. That grand jury which will meet Monday could indict Donald D. VanHorn for illegal wiretapping.

VanHorn, a Terre Haute firefighter, is on loan to the police department. He was named in May in the complaint alleging he illegally tapped the home telephone of sheriff's deputy Kevin Artz and his wife, to whom the alleged payoff offer was made.

Linda Artz said Tuesday the \$10,000 was offered to her by VanHorn, 2309 S. 10½ St., in a telephone conversation during the past two weeks. She did not recall the exact day, but knew the caller was VanHorn because

they had previously talked many times on the telephone. VanHorn and his wife have been friends with the Artzes for many years, Linda Artz said.

VanHorn, reached at his home by telephone, refused to comment on her allegations. VanHorn referred all questions to his attorney, Norman Lowery. Efforts to reach Lowery were unsuccessful.

Mrs. Artz said that VanHorn admitted tapping their phone in his conversation with her.

"He said he didn't do it to hurt anyone, he just did it as a joke," Mrs. Artz recalled from the conversation.

"I'm going to have to pay an attorney the \$10,000, so I might as well give you and Kevin the money to buy your daughter some toys," Artz quoted VanHorn as saying to her during the telephone conversation.

Deputy Artz said he reported his wife's conversation with VanHorn and the alleged offer of what he called a payoff to federal authorities.

Mrs. Artz said that on an earlier occasion VanHorn telephoned and tearfully pleaded for her and her husband to drop the wiretap

charges against him.

The wiretap charges were made in statements the Artzes gave state and federal investigators.

Artz discovered the recording device attached to his home telephone in May during a routine check of phone wires in his basement. The recording device consisted of a microcassette recorder, telephone-recorder switch and cable.

The recorder, Artz said, was hidden between the floor joists. Artz said he telephoned state police to report the wiretap because he was at that time using the home telephone in connection with his investigation of City Court Judge James Lewis. Lewis has since been indicted on charges of bribery and official misconduct.

The Tribune-Star also learned Tuesday that VanHorn, Assistant Police Chief Thomas Tanoos and FBI agent Martin Rikken met in Tanoos' office in the past two weeks to discuss the wiretapping incident.

Tanoos is VanHorn's supervisor.

Tanoos admitted there was a meeting, but said, "The main reason for the discussion was to see if and when any

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[criminal] charges would be filed, the status of the situation and to get it resolved."

Tanoos predicted that VanHorn would be indicted by the grand jury. U.S. Attorney John Tinder said Tuesday a regular session of the federal grand jury will convene on Monday. Tinder said he was prohibited by law from discussing what the grand jury would investigate.

Tanoos said "proper steps will be taken if he's [VanHorn] indicted. When the time comes, you'll know what I mean in the proper steps. I know what actions I'll take. The punishment will fit the violation."

If a suspension is necessary, Tanoos said, he would make that recommendation to Fire Chief Robert Osborn.

VanHorn in May refused to answer questions concerning the alleged wiretapping. "I ain't trying not to get along, I'm just not going to answer your questions," VanHorn said in a telephone interview at that time.

As an arson investigator on loan to city police, VanHorn carries a handgun and has arrest powers.

VanHorn 'obsessed' with another massacre

T s AUG 2 5 1984

By Patrick J. Barnes
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

"Donald VanHorn has stated that he is obsessed with the idea of entering a Terre Haute bar with an M-16 military-type semi-automatic rifle and gunning down all of the patrons."

That statement is one of many "irrational, bizarre and potentially dangerous behavior" patterns that the federal government has alleged about indicted arson investigator Donald D. VanHorn.

The motion for a mental examination of VanHorn was filed Thursday in the Terre Haute Division of U.S. District Court by assistant U.S. Attorney C. Joseph Russell.

U.S. Magistrate Jordan Lewis granted the government's request.

VanHorn, 36, is confined to the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo., awaiting a court-ordered psychiatric examination. He was flown to the medical facility immediately after his court hearing.

At that hearing, VanHorn learned that a federal grand jury

had returned a four-count indictment against him. The indictment charges VanHorn with two counts of telephone wiretapping, one count of threatening to kill a Vigo County sheriff's deputy and one count of harassing the deputy's wife.

The first two counts allege VanHorn wiretapped the home telephone of Kevin and Linda Artz, 1229 S. Eighth St., on two occasions in May. The others include one count of threatening to kill Artz and the other of harassing the lawman's wife.

Bond for VanHorn was set at \$250,000.

Conviction of the four charges could bring a total fine of \$295,000 and 21 years in prison.

The government's motion for a mental examination alleges that VanHorn "has reportedly stated if he 'gets in trouble' over the alleged wiretapping charge in this case, he plans to commit an act which makes the recent tragic murders in the San Diego, Calif., McDonald's restaurant pale by comparison."

In addition to VanHorn's alleged obsession to gun down all the patrons in a local bar, other

VanHorn suspended without pay

Mayor P. Pete Chalos on Friday suspended firefighter Donald D. VanHorn, 36, from the city fire department without pay.

Chalos said he instructed Fire Chief Robert Osborn to draft a letter to members of the city Board of Public Works and Safety recommending a suspension pending the outcome of VanHorn's criminal charges.

Osborn can only suspend a firefighter for a maximum of 10 days.

Chalos said members of the

fire department pension board Friday delayed action on a request by VanHorn to be placed on the disability list. VanHorn's request for disability, Chalos said, was made prior to his indictment by a federal grand jury on Wednesday.

The VanHorn request, Chalos said, was deferred pending VanHorn's examination by a pension board physician.

Chalos said VanHorn claimed that he injured his right ankle while investigating an arson case.

examples of VanHorn's alleged irrational, bizarre and potentially dangerous behavior were cited by the government as:

- "Donald Dean VanHorn has stated that he currently possesses articles of clothing, uniforms and other personal effects which he took from the bodies of Viet Cong and/or North Vietnamese soldiers which Donald Dean VanHorn claims to have killed during his tour of duty during the Vietnam

War. Said items, including family photographs possessed by the deceased soldiers, are claimed to be exhibited in a macabre display. Further, Donald Dean VanHorn reportedly still talks about the mutilation which he engaged in while serving in Vietnam."

- "Donald Dean VanHorn maintains a room in his home which is constantly locked and from which he excludes all others including his wife."

- "Donald Dean VanHorn possesses at least one home-made silencer fitted for use with a firearm."

- "Donald Dean VanHorn claims to still carry on his person a romantic note allegedly written by a male to Donald Dean VanHorn's wife, the discovery of which note is alleged to have resulted in the 1974 shooting of the purported author." VanHorn was arrested here July 2, 1974 for assault and battery with intent to kill. He was acquitted of the charge Dec. 6, 1974.

The government also alleges that VanHorn engaged in a pattern of harassing and irrational behavior directed at potential witnesses and victims of the grand jury during a period of May 1 to mid-August.

VanHorn is accused of repeatedly following and telephoning Linda Artz and attempted to engage her in conversation despite her refusals and protestations.

VanHorn, according to the government document, during the first week in August entered a Terre Haute business and inquired as to

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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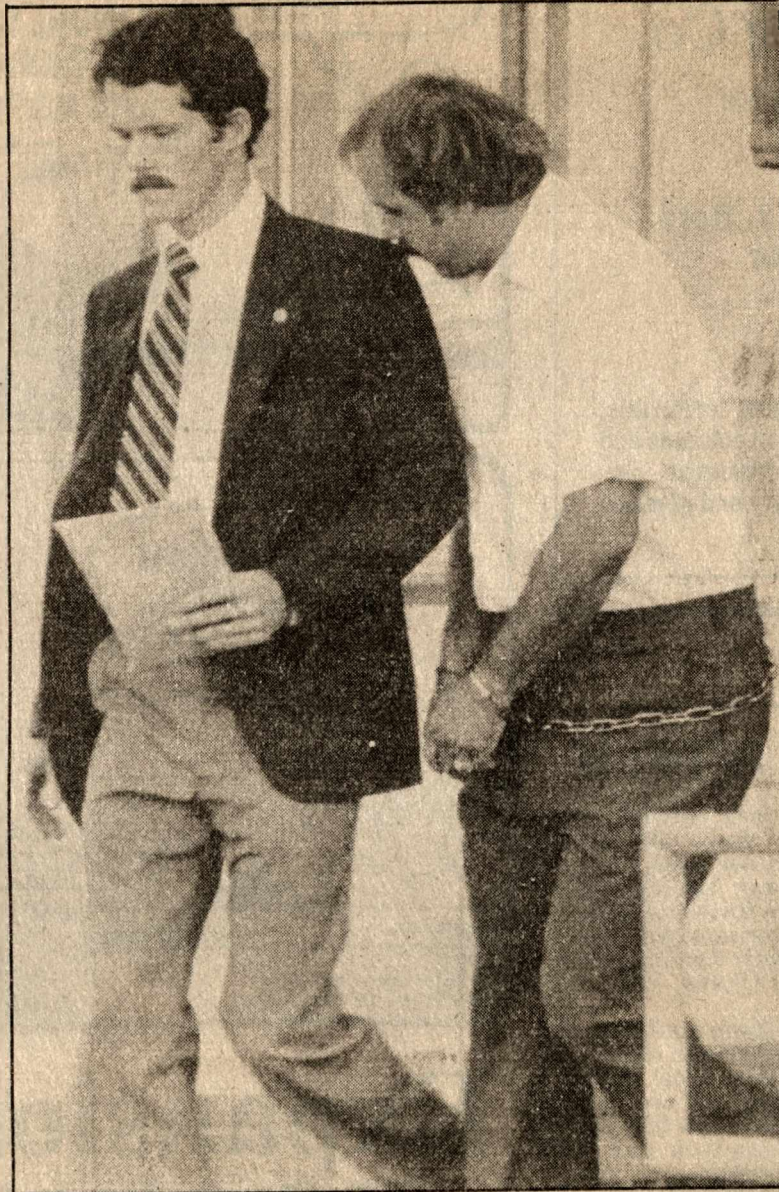
VanHorn

• Continued from Page A1

whether Linda Artz was at the business. On the same occasion, the government alleges that VanHorn viewed, without permission, a customer appointment book in an apparent attempt to determine the date of Linda Artz's next appointment at the business.

On more than one occasion during the six months prior to the grand jury indictment, the government alleges that VanHorn had been observed prowling near the Artz residence. On several occasions, the government said that VanHorn was observed attempting to conceal his presence by hiding in shrubbery located near the residence. On one of those occasions, VanHorn, when confronted by an observer, displayed a law-enforcement type badge and identified himself as being on "official police business."

The government also alleges that during the early morning hours of Sunday, Aug. 19, "Donald Dean VanHorn, while possessing a police-type radio and a handgun, did confront Mr. and Mrs. W.K. Artz at their residence and did attempt to harass Mrs. Artz about her scheduled testimony in this matter before the Federal Grand Jury for the Southern District of Indiana on August 20, 1984. Donald Dean VanHorn did threaten to kill Mr. Artz and attempted to provoke Mr. Artz into a physical fight, all in apparent connection with Mr. Artz's scheduled testimony before the Federal Grand Jury for the Southern District of Indiana on August 20, 1984."



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

In trouble: VanHorn led from court by U.S. marshal.

VanHorn could be freed from U.S. custody today

Crime + Criminals (WV)
Blaine (TH)

Community Affairs File

T s NOV 7 1984

By Patrick J. Barnes
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Donald Dean VanHorn, the indicted city arson investigator, could be released on bond today.

U.S. Magistrate Jordan D. Lewis is scheduled to rule on the government's request that VanHorn, indicted by a federal grand jury in August on four charges — two counts of wiretapping, threatening to kill Vigo County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Artz and harassing the lawman's wife — be held without bond until his trial.

VanHorn was ruled mentally fit to stand trial Monday during testimony in the Southern Division of U.S. District Court, Terre Haute.

VanHorn's attorney, Norman Lowery, has requested the court set a bond for VanHorn which is attainable. VanHorn's bond is currently \$250,000.

VanHorn has been in federal custody since his indictment Aug. 23.

Testimony by government witnesses Tuesday revealed VanHorn has had a history of violent acts. As examples: VanHorn, according to U.S. probation officer Tom Miller, was arrested in October 1973 on three charges — malicious destruction of property, disorderly conduct and public intoxication — after VanHorn threatened to kill a 10-year-old child and the child's mother. The incident, Miller said, stemmed from the youngster throwing a rock at VanHorn's automobile. VanHorn, Miller said, kicked in the door of the residence and threatened to shoot the mother and child.

Miller said the court record had been expunged, but no record could be found ordering the arrest record

to be expunged.

In March 1973, VanHorn, Miller said, reportedly discharged a handgun into several wall lockers at a city firehouse. As a result of that action, coupled with numerous other alleged rule violations, VanHorn was dismissed from the fire department. He was reinstated in April 1977 following a civil suit.

Miller said VanHorn was arrested in May 1980 on charges of public intoxication, drunken driving and refusal to take a breath-analysis test. Those charges, Miller said, had been expunged. Again, no record could be found ordering the arrest record to be expunged, Miller said.

VanHorn was charged with surety of the peace, Miller said, in November 1973. No disposition of that charge could be found, Miller said.

VanHorn and another firefighter, George Schoffstall Jr., each received suspensions in May 1982 after the two were caught fighting inside a firehouse, Miller said. During that fight, Miller said, VanHorn told Schoffstall, "I'll kill you if you report me."

Artz, during testimony Tuesday, told the court that VanHorn had threatened to kill him during a confrontation Aug. 19 on the front porch of the Artz residence.

Artz said that he confronted VanHorn and said, "Get the hell off my property."

VanHorn, Artz said, responded, "I want to talk to you."

Artz then said to VanHorn, "Get the [expletive deleted] off my property."

VanHorn then said to Artz, "Don't [expletive deleted] with me. I'll kill you."

Artz said VanHorn was carrying a handgun and police radio.

Artz admitted that he and his

wife, Linda, were once social friends with VanHorn and his wife, Debbie.

Fritz Crichfield told the court that VanHorn talked with him at length about shooting dead bodies in Vietnam. "He described in detail about shooting bodies to watch their heads explode," Crichfield said.

Crichfield also said VanHorn told him on several occasions about his "life ambition" of walking into a local tavern armed with a M-16 automatic rifle and killing all the patrons.

"He was nearly foaming at the mouth when he talked of the war stories," Crichfield said.

A different picture of VanHorn was painted during the testimony of three witnesses.

Mike Fowler, investigator for the Vigo County prosecutor's office, said the arson investigator was "a very good, hard worker."

Fowler said he personally "did not think that Donald VanHorn was a dangerous man."

City police Lt. Richard Setliff said, "VanHorn was dedicated to his job. Van just talks a lot."

Fowler and Setliff both said VanHorn never discussed with them his military experiences or wanting to kill anyone in a local bar.

Debbie VanHorn, married to the defendant for 14 years, said her husband "was not a dangerous man. I'd like to have him at home."

Assistant U.S. attorney C. Joseph Russell argued that VanHorn should remain in custody because "there is a serious risk that he will obstruct justice, threaten, injury or attempt to injury witnesses."

Not so, said Lowery. "Donald VanHorn stands today as an innocent man."

Van Horn, Donald

VanHorn enters surprise plea in wiretapping, harassment case

Ts JAN 15 1985

Community Affairs File

By Patrick J. Barnes
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

In a surprise move, former city arson investigator Donald Dean VanHorn, 37, entered a guilty plea to one count of illegal telephone wiretapping in exchange for dismissal of three other felonies.

The guilty plea in U.S. District Court was part of an agreement worked out by federal authorities and VanHorn's attorney. VanHorn's federal trial on four charges — two counts of wiretapping, one count of threatening to kill Vigo County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Artz and one count of harassing the lawman's wife, Linda — was scheduled to begin Monday.

In return for VanHorn's guilty plea, the government dismissed the harassment charge and agreed to dismiss the threatening charge and another charge of wiretapping.

Those dismissals will be executed at a later date.

Also, the agreement calls for the government at the time of sentencing to recommend that VanHorn be given an executed sentence of one year and one day in a federal institution.

Artz, reached at home, said he was satisfied with the plea agreement. "I'm happy with the decision." Artz said he was notified during the weekend that VanHorn had agreed to plead guilty to one of the four charges.

During a lengthy question-and-answer session conducted by Judge Gene E. Brooks, VanHorn admitted to having illegally wiretapped the home telephone of Artz on May 2. "Are you waiving your rights to a trial?" Brooks asked VanHorn.

"Yes sir, I have to," VanHorn responded.

"Is it voluntary?"

VanHorn, sobbing and fighting

back tears, answered, "Yes."

"Did you knowingly and willfully intercept an oral communication?"

"Not knowingly."

Following a brief discussion between VanHorn and his attorney, Norman Lowery, Brooks again asked VanHorn if he had wiretapped the Artz telephone.

VanHorn said, "Yes."

"Did you have permission?"

Brooks asked VanHorn.

"No."

Brooks accepted VanHorn's guilty plea, but declined to accept the plea agreement.

Brooks said he was taking the plea agreement under advisement until he has an opportunity to read a pre-sentence report. That report, which will be prepared by U.S. probation officer Tom Miller, is expected to be completed and presented to Brooks within four weeks.

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Van Horn, Donald

J 5 MAY 8 1985

Crime & Criminals (W.V.)

VanHorn scheduled to leave jail Friday

Convicted felon Donald Dean VanHorn, former Terre Haute Fire Department arson investigator, is scheduled to be released Friday from the Vanderburgh County Jail.

VanHorn, 37, entered a guilty plea to wiretapping the home telephone of Vigo County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Artz during his court appearance in March in U.S. District Court, Terre Haute.

Federal Judge Gene E. Brooks sentenced VanHorn to four months in prison and gave him credit for his previous days of imprisonment.

The former firefighter, who is

collecting a city disability pension, was ordered to spend 48 days of confinement in jail at Evansville.

A second wiretapping charge and a charge of threatening to kill Artz were dismissed by the government when VanHorn entered the guilty plea. A fourth charge, harassing Linda Artz, wife of the lawman, was dismissed during an earlier court session.

In addition to the jail confinement, Brooks fined VanHorn \$2,000 and placed him on probation for 32 months.

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Alleged distribution point: Joe's Pizza, south of Paris on Illinois 1

Tribune-Star/Sue Loughlin

APR 1 1 1984

Paris, Olney businessmen charged in heroin ring

Community Affairs File

Crime & Criminals (WV) ~~Drugs (WV)~~

Two Illinois pizza-parlor owners were arrested Monday in Olney and Paris by federal authorities in connection with a \$1.65 billion organized-crime heroin ring.

Guiseppe "Joseph" Trupiano, Olney, is jailed in lieu of \$2 million cash bond on two federal counts — conspiracy to violate federal drug laws, and engaging in racketeering enterprise and conspiracy. Federal authorities refused for security purposes to disclose where Trupiano is jailed.

Guiseppe "Joe" Vitale, 42, Paris, was released Monday after posting 10 percent of a \$15,000 bond. Vitale was arrested by federal authorities on warrants charging him with the same violations as Trupiano. Vitale's passport was seized by federal authorities.

Trupiano and Vitale were among 31 people charged by federal authorities in connection with the alleged heroin ring.

Federal prosecutors said pizza establishments were

used as a conduit for a massive drug-importing business headed by an Italian figure in the "French Connection" cases and a reputed New York crime boss.

An FBI spokesman in Springfield said Trupiano operates Joe's Pizza Parlor in Olney and Vitale owns Joe's Pizza Parlor in Paris.

A third Illinois suspect was identified by court papers as Pietro Alfano, 57, who runs a pizza business in Oregon, Ill. Alfano was arrested Sunday in Madrid by Spanish police, said an FBI spokesman in the Chicago office.

Federal authorities said Alfano is believed to be the nephew of the alleged prime heroin supplier, Gaetano Badalamenti of Sicily. Badalamenti also was arrested Sunday in Madrid.

Federal authorities said the ring was a sweeping operation that laundered vast sums of money in drug proceeds through other countries over the past five years.

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Community Affairs File

case

Vitale surrenders in 'pizza connection'

By Patrick J. Barnes
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Depending on who you talk to, a 42-year-old Paris, Ill., pizzeria owner is depicted as being either a high-level mobster or a regular, hard-working Joe.

Giuseppe "Joe" Vitale, who surrendered to federal officials Wednesday, has been described by federal prosecutors as a high-level member of organized crime who is involved in a multibillion-dollar, international heroin-distribution organization.

Vitale's Paris attorney says Vitale is a hard-working man who left Sicily 11 years ago to earn a modest living for his family in America.

Vitale, who owns and operates Joe's Pizza, 2002 S. Main St., Paris, is one of 28 persons ordered

Turncoat praised in probe

Gangster-turned-informant Tommaso Buscetta's decision to assist federal investigators has been hailed as "the single most devastating assault on the Mafia in its entire history," by Attorney General William French Smith.

Buscetta's confessions about organized crime have led to the arrest of 28 men throughout the United States charged with heroin trafficking in what has been dubbed "the pizza connection." That operation consisted of pizza parlors in the Midwest, including Paris, Ill., and across the East Coast as fronts for a \$6.5 billion narcotics operation allegedly run by Sicilian Mafia families.

One of those arrested was Giuseppe "Joe" Vitale, 42, Paris, owner and operator of Joe's Pizza, 2002 S. Main St., Paris.

Professor Pino Arlacchi, Italy's leading expert on organized crime, in an interview with the New York Times, said Buscetta's decision to break the Mafia code of silence, known as "Omerta," stemmed from the vicious gang war that raged in Sicily in 1982 and 1983.

arrested Monday and Tuesday by federal authorities in connection with Italy's crackdown on the

Sicilian Mafia.

Vitale is among the group the U.S. Justice Department and

Italian authorities want extradited to Italy to face charges of murder, drug trafficking and racketeering. The 28 people face possible return to Italy to stand trial under terms of a treaty agreement between the United States and Italy.

Government officials said the 28 facing extradition are among a group of more than 300 people sought by Italian authorities in what Italy called the largest anti-Mafia operation since World War II.

Federal officials in New York said Wednesday that Vitale is part of the "pizza connection," an alleged front of pizza parlors on the East Coast and throughout the Midwest where large sums of illegal drugs were distributed by Sicilian Mafia families.

Charles E. Rose, assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said the operation has netted \$1.65 billion during the past five years.

Vitale was arrested in April on a federal warrant charging him with conspiracy to import, distribute and possess with intent to distribute heroin.

Since his arrest, Vitale has been free on bond following an appearance before a U.S. Magistrate.

James Stanfield, Paris, attorney for Vitale, said the charges against his client are unfounded.

"Joe hasn't been in Italy in over five years. How could he be a part of any crimes in a country he hasn't visited for years," Stanfield said.

Stanfield said that Vitale, who neither writes nor reads English, moved to the United States 11 years ago with his wife, daughter and three sons.

Family members, Stanfield said, have helped operate the pizza business.

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Vitale, Giuseppe

Vitale, 17 others found guilty

Is MAR 03 1987

NEW YORK — A Paris, Ill., pizzeria owner was one of 18 men convicted Monday in a \$1.6 billion international narcotics conspiracy in a case dubbed the "Pizza Connection."

Giuseppe "Joe" Vitale was convicted on one count of participating in a narcotics conspiracy and 10 counts of involvement in racketeering-influenced, corrupt organizations. The RICO convictions include conducting drug deals by telephone.

Vitale operated Joe's Pizza at 2002 S. Main St. in Paris.

Beth Petrone, administrative aide to U.S. Attorney Rudolph W. Giuliani, termed Vitale a major player in the operation.

Prosecutors alleged the defendants were part of an international drug-importing and money-laundering conspiracy controlled by the Sicilian Mafia and a faction of its American counterpart.

The defendants used pizzerias in the

Northeast and Midwest as fronts for distributing \$1.6 billion in heroin imported into the United States over a decade, prosecutors said.

Vitale faces a maximum of 35 years in prison, Petrone said. The narcotics conspiracy count carries a maximum 15-year sentence, while the RICO counts carry a maximum of 20 years total.

Among the 18 was the reputed former boss of the Sicilian Mafia, Gaetano Badalamenti.

A 19th defendant was acquitted of all charges after a 17-month federal trial that began Sept. 30, 1985.

"It's been a great day," Giuliani said after the verdicts. "I was worried. . . . We'd invested a great deal of time into this case."

One defendant was killed last year, and a second was shot and seriously wounded last month as he walked on a Greenwich Village street. Two of the original 22 defendants

pleaded guilty to lesser charges after the trial began.

Three of the Pizza Connection case's defendants were from Illinois. They are Vitale, Pietro Alfano, 47, of Oregon, and Giuseppe Trupiano, 36, of Olney.

In October 1984, an FBI agent told The Tribune-Star that telephone wiretaps revealed Vitale and Alfano were discussing drug deals.

Alfano, 51, the Oregon pizzeria owner, was shot and seriously wounded Feb. 11. Six men have been arrested in the shooting, including supermarket executive Pasquale Conte, described by federal officials as a capo in the Gambino crime family.

Vitale had been free on bail since his indictment in April 1984. Petrone said Vitale will likely be jailed in New York until he is sentenced May 5.

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Community Affairs File

Vitale, Guiseppe

Pizzeria owner 'loyal underling'

✓ **Vitale gets 5-year prison term**

Crime and Criminals (WS) TS III 1 5 1987
Guiseppe Vitale, 44, of Paris, Ill., was sentenced Tuesday in New York City to five years in federal custody, plus five years' probation after release from imprisonment.

Vitale was convicted March 2 on charges of participating in a narcotics conspiracy and involvement in a racketeering-influenced corrupt organization.

Gaetano Badalamenti, reputed former head of the Sicilian Mafia, was sentenced last month to 45 years in prison and fined \$125,000 for running the \$1.6 billion "Pizza Connection" drug-smuggling ring.

A government sentencing memorandum described Vitale as one of Badalamenti's "loyal underlings who carried out his commands in furtherance of their joint drug enterprise."

The memo also said, "Each and every defendant was a critical link in the Mafia infrastructure which carried out in perpetuity the heinous crimes of drug trafficking, murder and corruption, which are the lifeblood of their criminal existence."

Prosecutors said Vitale should get a 25-year sentence and a

\$40,000 fine, but U.S. District Judge Pierre Leval said Vitale had played "a relatively small part in a very big drug conspiracy."

Another Illinois pizzeria operator, Guiseppe Trupiano, 36, of Olney, was convicted of the same counts as Vitale. He was sentenced last month to one year in prison and five years' probation.

Prosecutors said the drug ring dealt \$1.6 billion in heroin and cocaine from 1975 through 1984.

Eighteen defendants were convicted in the 17-month-long federal trial that began Sept. 30, 1985.

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